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1896-04-07

Letter from W[illiam] P. Gibbons to John Muir, 1896 Apr 7.

William P. Gibbons

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Alameda 4/7, 1896

Dear John

I had mentally appropriated last Monday to the pleasurable recreation of making a visit to your household, but the weather said nay, & so I kept court in the house, that being a safe & comfortable refuge. And now, if external conditions will coexist with internal inclination, you will find me on the train of next Monday morning: if so I will telegraph at 16th St. Station. Meantime, by virtue of my august position as Chairman of the Section on Indigenous Botany & half a dozen other tail appendages, of the Med. Soc. of the State of Cal. — Officer more imposing in title than in fact — I have written a report for the Annual Meeting to be held in Los Angeles on 18th prox. entitled, "On the Origin & Distribution of Forest Trees of the Pacific Coast," wherein I have indulged in some profound remarks which bear some resemblance to a hyperbolic curve, which is constantly tending toward a central point without ever getting there. In this connexion I have brought in your gigantic name, to corroborate a theory, & have taken your statement as published in the Proc. of the Am. Assoc. 1870. of the extent & ex-

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causes ~~of localities~~ of the groups of *Sequoia gigantea*, & your opinion that the tree had its origin near or at its present habitat, not from migration; & that the genus was here to be obliterated, more from special causes than from any natural agencies. Now, if you have had occasion to modify your views on this subject I wish you to let me know during the present week, as my paper will be sent to Sacramento on Saturday or Sunday next, to be forwarded to the Soc. & read by Dr. Parkinson as I can't afford to attend the convention this season. Should it so happen that I can retain it a few days longer, I will bring the document up, & set you to target shooting at its nucleus; of course, the subject is too vast & intricate to be disposed of in one paper, & I will go on & commence others on the same subject, as way may open. With many kind regards to the entire family I am

Very truly Yours

W. H. Gibbons—